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			TAN, ALVIN H	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Application No. Applicant(s) 09/663 586 ADLER, GLENN Office Action Summary Examiner Art Unit ALVIN H. TAN 2173 -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --Period for Reply A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS. WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b). Status 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 November 2007. 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final. 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213. Disposition of Claims 4) Claim(s) 29-40.42-44 and 46-57 is/are pending in the application. 4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdrawn from consideration. 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed. 6) Claim(s) 29-40.42-44 and 46-57 is/are rejected. 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to. 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement. Application Papers 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner. 10) The drawing(s) filed on is/are; a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abevance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d). 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner, Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152. Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of: Certified copies of the priority documents have been received. 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received. Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

Information Disclosure Statement(s) (FTO/SB/CC)
 Paper No(s)Mail Date

Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date.

6) Other:

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application

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DETAILED ACTION

Remarks

1. This Office action is responsive to the Request for Continued Examination (RCE) filed under 37 CFR §1.53(d) for the instant application on 11/16/07. Applicants have properly set forth the RCE, which has been entered into the application, and an examination on the merits follows herewith.

Claims 29-40, 42-44, and 46-57 have been examined and rejected. This Office action is responsive to the amendment filed on 11/16/07, which has been entered in the above identified application.

Specification

The corrections to the specification have been approved, and the objections to the specification are withdrawn.

Claim Objections

3. On [line 1] of claim 42, it appears the applicant has incorrectly set claim 42 to depend on cancelled claim 41. Examiner assumes claim 42 is meant to be dependent on claim 39 and it will be treated as such for the remainder of the Office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

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4. The corrections to claim 44 have been approved, and the rejection to the claim

under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, is withdrawn.

5. Claim 45 has been canceled and thus, the rejection to the claim is withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained frough the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if he differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are sund to that the subject matter as a whole would he seen obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.

invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 29-37, 39, 40, 43, 46, and 47-57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as

being unpatentable over Sony CyberFrame PHD-A55 (hereinafter CyberFrame) as

supported by the product review in TechTV (hereinafter TechTV), the product

description in Outpost.com (hereinafter Outpost), and the Sony Hong Kong Press

Release dated April 19, 1999 (hereinafter Sony Press Release), the Announcement

entitled "Sony to Sell Liquid Crystal TV with Memory Stick" by Nikkei Industrial Daily

(hereinafter Nikkei), and Piety et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,637,871).

Claims 29-37

Claims 39, 40, 43

Claim 46

7.

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7-1. In the first paragraph of the Sony Press Release, it is established that the CyberFrame was released 4/19/1999. The first two paragraphs on page 2 of the Sony Press Release describe the CyberFrame product. Therefore, the CyberFrame product was made available to the public on 4/19/1999 and the TechTV and Outpost articles describe features of that CyberFrame product.

Referring to claims 29, 39, 40, and 46, the CyberFrame is a monitor having an interface with a storage medium reader that reads a digital image stored on a storage medium. See the second paragraph in TechTV that describes how memory sticks (storage medium) are read to display images from a digital camera.

There inherently has to be a controller to process and transfer the image from the memory stick to be displayed in the display screen of the CyberFrame. There necessarily must be some sort of controller/processor for moving the image data/file from the memory stick to the display screen.

The third paragraph in TechTV describes a user-interface operable to enable issuing a command to the controller to control the reading and display of the digital images on the display screen. See how the user can navigate through the images, rotate the images, and set up a slide show.

The CyberFrame has a mode of operation that enables display of a digital image from a storage medium (Memory Stick™) that does not require connection to a PC, however, the CyberFrame is not described as a monitor for a PC or as having a mode of operation that enables the display of a video signal from a PC. However, Nikkei discloses TV with a Memory Stick™ that has a terminal that allows the TV to be used as

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a computer monitor (i.e. it may connect to a PC to display a digital image from the PC). See the second paragraph in the Nikkei article. The TV uses the same Memory Stick™ technology to read images from a digital camera as does the CyberFrame and thus may display the digital images in the same way as the CyberFrame (i.e. independent from the connection state to the PC). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the same display capabilities and user-interface for displaying digital images from a Memory Stick™ as shown in the CyberFrame within the TV/Monitor in the article by Nikkei in order to provide a large screen view of the pictures from the digital camera.

Although the CyberFrame and Nikkei teach displaying images on a monitor, the components needed for displaying the images are not expressly taught. CyberFrame and Nikkei do not expressly teach a frame buffer shared between facilitating display of the digital image from the storage medium and facilitating display from a PC. Piety teaches a highly portable system which facilitates the collection, display, analysis, annotation, and recordation of images [column 1, lines 10-15]. A video data collector 52 [figures 1, 3] includes a frame buffer used to facilitate the display of images [column 8, line 58 to column 9, line 15]. The video data collector may interface with an external image storage device [column 17, lines 11-14] as well as a separate PC connected to it [column 6, lines 49-52]. Using a single frame buffer for facilitating display of digital images from both an external storage medium and a PC allows the video data collector to be highly portable without the need for additional circuitry or components for preparing images for display. Since CyberFrame and Nikkei teach using a monitor to

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display images from an external storage device and a PC, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the video data collector, as taught by Piety, to display the images. Using a shared frame buffer would reduce the number of components and simplify circuit configuration needed for preparing images for display from the PC and the storage device.

Although CyberFrame and Nikkei teach using a monitor to display images from an external storage device and a PC, CyberFrame and Nikkei do not expressly teach the monitor comprising a PC-interface operable to transfer the digital image to the PC. However, Piety further teaches that the video data collector (VDC) as shown in [figures 1, 3; reference character 52] is capable of interfacing with peripheral devices for storing and retrieving images and other data, including interfacing with a base station computer [column 6, lines 45-52; column 13, lines 37-42; figure 1]. Storing images to the base station computer allows the VDC to take advantage of the ergonomic features provided by additional user interfaces such as a mouse and keyboard as well as make use of the greater storage capacity of the base station computer [column 13, lines 57-67]. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include a PC-interface operable to transfer the digital image to the PC, as taught by Piety. This would allow the user to take advantage of the greater storage capacity of a PC for storing digital images.

7-2. Referring to claim 30, the monitor of CyberFrame, Nikkei, and Piety has a frame buffer in the visual display subsystem used to display images [Piety, column 8, lines 58]

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to column 9, line 15]. The images selected by the user to be displayed in intervals are read by the memory stick reader (storage medium reader) and transferred to the frame buffer for storage and display on the display screen.

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- 7-3. Regarding claim 31, the frame buffer of CyberFrame, Nikkei, and Piety must inherently be switchable between storing the digital image from the storage medium for transfer by said controller to said display screen and storing data from the PC for transfer by said controller to said display screen in order for it to display images from both the PC and the storage device.
- 7-4. Referring to claim 32, the controller of the monitor of CyberFrame, Nikkei, and Piety processes the read digital image into a format that is compatible with the signal input of the display. See the JPEG playback in the first listed Feature in Outpost.
- 7-5. Referring to claims 33 and 34, the CyberFrame's user-interface enables the user to manipulate the image displayed, such as deleting or protecting images (stored data), sequencing the display of multiple images (slide show), resizing and rotating images.
 See the third paragraph of TechTV and the fourth, sixth, and seventh Features in Outpost.

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7-6. Referring to claim 35, the manipulations are performed via on-screen menu

selection through the user-interface. One of the Specifications in Outpost is an on-

screen menu.

7-7. Referring to claim 36, the display screen is an LCD. See the second Feature in

Outpost.

7-8. Referring to claim 37, the storage medium is a memory stick. See the first

paragraph in Outpost.

7-9. Referring to claim 43, the third paragraph in TechTV describes a user-interface

operable to enable issuing a command to the controller to control the reading and

display of the digital images on the display screen. See how the user can navigate

through the images, rotate the images, and set up a slide show.

8. Claims 47-57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Sony CyberFrame PHD-A55 (hereinafter CyberFrame) as supported by the product

review in TechTV (hereinafter TechTV), the product description in Outpost.com

(hereinafter Outpost), and the Sony Hong Kong Press Release dated April 19, 1999

(hereinafter Sony Press Release) and Piety et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,637,871).

Claims 47-57

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8-1. In the first paragraph of the Sony Press Release, it is established that the CyberFrame was released 4/19/1999. The first two paragraphs on page 2 of the Sony Press Release describe the CyberFrame product. Therefore, the CyberFrame product was made available to the public on 4/19/1999 and the TechTV and Outpost articles describe features of that CyberFrame product.

Referring to claim 47, the CyberFrame is a stand-alone monitor having an interface with a storage medium reader that reads a digital image stored on a storage medium. See the second paragraph in TechTV that describes how memory sticks (storage medium) are read to display images from a digital camera.

There inherently has to be a controller to process and transfer the image from the memory stick to be displayed in the display screen of the CyberFrame. There necessarily must be some sort of controller/processor for moving the image data/file from the memory stick to the display screen.

The third paragraph in TechTV describes a user-interface operable to enable issuing a command to the controller to control the reading and display of the digital images on the display screen. See how the user can navigate through the images, rotate the images, and set up a slide show.

The CyberFrame does not expressly teach an interface for the monitor to control transfer of the digital image to an output connector of the monitor. However, Piety teaches a highly portable system which facilitates the collection, display, analysis, annotation, and recordation of images [column 1, lines 10-15]. Similar to CyberFrame, a video data collector (VDC) comprises a monitor, as shown in [figures 1, 3: reference

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character 52], that may interface with an external image storage device [column 17, lines 11-14]. Additionally, the VDC is capable of interfacing with peripheral devices for storing and retrieving images and other data, including interfacing with a base station computer [column 6, lines 45-52; column 13, lines 37-42; figure 1]. Storing images to the base station computer allows the VDC to take advantage of the ergonomic features provided by additional user interfaces such as a mouse and keyboard as well as make use of the greater storage capacity of the base station computer [column 13, lines 57-67]. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include a PC-interface operable to transfer the digital image to the PC, as taught by Piety. This would allow the user to take advantage of the greater storage capacity of a PC for storing digital images.

- 8-2. Referring to claim 48, CyberFrame and Piety teach the claim wherein the output connector is configured to provide coupling to a personal computer (PC), to facilitate transfer of the image data to the personal computer, by disclosing interfacing the monitor with a base station computer [Piety, column 6, lines 45-52; column 13, lines 37-42; figure 1].
- 8-3. Referring to claims 49 and 50, CyberFrame and Piety further teach that the video data collector 52 [figures 1, 3] includes a frame buffer used to facilitate the display of images [column 8, line 58 to column 9, line 15]. The video data collector may interface with an external image storage device [column 17, lines 11-14] as well as a separate

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PC connected to it *[column 6, lines 49-52]*. Using a single frame buffer for facilitating display of digital images from both an external storage medium and a PC allows the video data collector to be highly portable without the need for additional circuitry or components for preparing images for display. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the video data collector, as taught by Piety, to display the images. Using a shared frame buffer would reduce the number of components and simplify circuit configuration needed for preparing images for display from the PC and the storage device. The images selected by the user to be displayed in intervals are read by the memory stick reader (storage medium reader) and transferred to the frame buffer for storage and display on the display screen.

- 8-4. Referring to claims 51 and 52, the CyberFrame's user-interface enables the user to manipulate the image displayed, such as deleting or protecting images (stored data), sequencing the display of multiple images (slide show), resizing and rotating images.
 See the third paragraph of TechTV and the fourth, sixth, and seventh Features in Outpost.
- 8-5. Referring to claim 53, the manipulations are performed via on-screen menu selection through the user-interface. One of the Specifications in Outpost is an onscreen menu.

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8-6. Referring to claim 54, the display screen is an LCD. See the second Feature in

Outpost.

8-7. Referring to claim 55, the storage medium is a memory stick. See the first

paragraph in Outpost.

8-8. Referring to claim 56, the third paragraph in TechTV describes a user-interface

operable to enable issuing a command to the controller to control the reading and

display of the digital images on the display screen. See how the user can navigate

through the images, rotate the images, and set up a slide show.

8-9. Referring to claim 57, in order for the digital image to be displayed on the display,

the read digital image must inherently be processed into a format that is compatible with

the signal input of the display.

9. Claim 38 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the

CyberFrame, Nikkei, Piety, and the article entitled "Sony's \$900 Picture Frame", by

Mark Gimein.

9-1. Referring to claim 38, the storage medium reader of CyberFrame, Nikkei, and

Piety is only explicitly stated as reading memory sticks. However, as Gimein points out,

other types of storage medium (formats) do a good job of storing digital images and

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other data. See the third paragraph on page 2. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the storage medium reader of the monitor with Memory Stick™ reader of CyberFrame, Nikkei, and Piety to be able to read two or more different storage media types to make the monitor compatible with other vendor's storage technology as supported by Gimein.

- Claim 42 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the CyberFrame, Nikkei, Piety, and Applicant's admission of prior art.
- 10-1. Referring to claim 42, the monitor of CyberFrame, Nikkei, and Piety do not expressly teach wherein said communication means to transfer said data from the storage device to the PC is selected from the group consisting of a USB interface, a serial interface, and an IEEE 1394 interface. The statement that the USB interface is a common interface used for connecting and transferring information from storage devices to personal computers is taken to be admitted prior art because Applicant has failed to traverse the Examiner's assertion of official notice. See MPEP 2144.03 C. The USB interface allows for a fast rate of data transfer and also allows for devices to be added to a computer without the need for an adapter card and without rebooting the computer. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a USB interface for transferring data from the storage device to a PC, since Applicant admits that USB interfaces are commonly used for

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connecting and transferring information. This would allow quick transfer of data from the storage device.

- 11. Claim 44 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sony CyberFrame PHD-A55 (hereinafter CyberFrame) as supported by the product review in TechTV (hereinafter TechTV), the product description in Outpost.com (hereinafter Outpost), and the Sony Hong Kong Press Release dated April 19, 1999 (hereinafter Sony Press Release), the Announcement entitled "Sony to Sell Liquid Crystal TV with Memory Stick" by Nikkei Industrial Daily (hereinafter Nikkei), Piety et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,637,871), and Liu (U.S. Patent No. 6,437,974 B1).
- 11-1. In the first paragraph of the Sony Press Release, it is established that the CyberFrame was released 4/19/1999. The first two paragraphs on page 2 of the Sony Press Release describe the CyberFrame product. Therefore, the CyberFrame product was made available to the public on 4/19/1999 and the TechTV and Outpost articles describe features of that CyberFrame product.

Referring to claim 44, the CyberFrame is a monitor having an interface with a storage medium reader that reads a digital image stored on a storage medium. See the second paragraph in TechTV that describes how memory sticks (storage medium) are read to display images from a digital camera.

There inherently has to be a controller to process and transfer the image from the memory stick to be displayed in the display screen of the CyberFrame. There

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necessarily must be some sort of controller/processor for moving the image data/file from the memory stick to the display screen.

The third paragraph in TechTV describes a user-interface operable to enable issuing a command to the controller to control the reading and display of the digital images on the display screen. See how the user can navigate through the images, rotate the images, and set up a slide show.

The CyberFrame does not expressly teach an interface for the monitor to selectively transfer the read digital image to a PC. However, Piety teaches a highly portable system which facilitates the collection, display, analysis, annotation, and recordation of images [column 1, lines 10-15]. A video data collector (VDC) as shown in [figures 1, 3; reference character 52] is capable of interfacing with peripheral devices for storing and retrieving images and other data, including interfacing with a base station computer [column 6, lines 45-52; column 13, lines 37-42; figure 1]. Storing images to the base station computer allows the VDC to take advantage of the ergonomic features provided by additional user interfaces such as a mouse and keyboard as well as make use of the greater storage capacity of the base station computer [column 13, lines 57-67]. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include a PC-interface operable to transfer the digital image to the PC, as taught by Piety. This would allow the user to take advantage of the greater storage capacity of a PC for storing digital images.

The CyberFrame and Peity do not expressly teach wherein the user-interface is located in an enclosure separate from the monitor and communicates with the monitor

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to display and manipulate an image via a first communication means. Liu teaches an LCD display panel that may serve as an electronic picture frame display [column 2, lines 23-36; column 3, lines 62-64]. The LCD display panel is connected to a data input device via a cable [column 4, lines 66-67; column 5, lines 1-27; figure 1]. Having the input device separate from the display panel allows flexibility in orientation for a user controlling the display panel [column 3, lines 44-52]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to separate the user-interface for controlling the reading and displaying of digital images from the monitor, as taught by Liu. This would allow flexibility in orientation for a user controlling the display panel.

The CyberFrame has a mode of operation that enables display of a digital image from a storage medium (Memory Stick™) that does not require connection to a PC, however, the CyberFrame is not described as a monitor for a PC or as having a mode of operation that enables the display of a video signal from a PC. However, Nikkei discloses TV with a Memory Stick™ that has a terminal that allows the TV to be used as a computer monitor (i.e. it may connect to a PC to display a digital image from the PC). See the second paragraph in the Nikkei article. The TV uses the same Memory Stick™ technology to read images from a digital camera as does the CyberFrame and thus may display the digital images in the same way as the CyberFrame (i.e. independent from the connection state to the PC). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the same display capabilities and user-interface for displaying digital images from a Memory Stick™ as shown in the CyberFrame within the TV/Monitor in

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the article by Nikkei in order to provide a large screen view of the pictures from the digital camera.

Although the CyberFrame, Lui, and Nikkei teach displaying images on a monitor, internal components within the monitor needed for displaying the images are not expressly taught. CyberFrame, Lui, and Nikkei do not expressly teach a frame buffer for storing data in two different modes of operation, wherein a first mode of operation enables display of a digital image from the storage medium and a second mode of operation enables display from a PC. Piety further teaches that the video data collector 52 Ifigures 1, 3] includes a frame buffer used to facilitate the display of images Icolumn 8, line 58 to column 9, line 15]. The video data collector may interface with an external image storage device [column 17, lines 11-14] as well as a separate PC connected to it Icolumn 6. lines 49-521. Thus, the visual display subsystem must inherently have two modes of operation for facilitating display of images from both a PC and a separate storage device. Using a single frame buffer for facilitating display of digital images from both an external storage medium and a PC allows the video data collector to be highly portable without the need for additional circuitry or components for preparing images for display. Since CyberFrame, Lui, and Nikkei teach using a monitor to display images from an external storage device and a PC, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the video data collector, as taught by Piety, to display the images. Using a shared frame buffer would reduce the number of components and simplify circuit configuration needed for preparing images for display from the PC and the storage device.

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Response to Arguments

12. The Examiner acknowledges the Applicant's amendments to claims 29, 39, 44, and 46, the cancellation of claims 41 and 45, and the addition of new claims 47-57. Regarding independent claims 29, 39, and 46, Applicant argues that Sony CyberFrame PHD-A55 (hereinafter CyberFrame) as supported by the product review in TechTV (hereinafter TechTV), the product description in Outpost.com (hereinafter Outpost), and the Sony Hong Kong Press Release dated April 19, 1999 (hereinafter Sony Press Release), the Announcement entitled "Sony to Sell Liquid Crystal TV with Memory Stick" by Nikkei Industrial Daily (hereinafter Nikkei), and Piety et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,637,871) do not teach or suggest means at the monitor for transferring the digital image from the storage medium to a PC. Contrary to Applicant's arguments, Piety further teaches that the video data collector (VDC) as shown in [Piety, figures 1, 3; reference character 521 is capable of interfacing with peripheral devices for storing and retrieving images and other data, including interfacing with a base station computer [Piety, column 6, lines 45-52; column 13, lines 37-42; figure 1]. Storing images to the base station computer allows the VDC to take advantage of the ergonomic features provided by additional user interfaces such as a mouse and keyboard as well as make use of the greater storage capacity of the base station computer [Piety, column 13, lines 57-67]. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include a PC-interface operable to transfer the digital image

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to the PC, as taught by Piety. This would allow the user to take advantage of the greater storage capacity of a PC for storing digital images.

Similar arguments have been presented for claim 44 and thus, Applicant's arguments are not persuasive for the same reasons.

Newly added claims 47-57 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over CyberFrame and Piety et al. See sections 8-1 to 8-9.

Applicant states that dependent claims 30-38, 40, 42, and 43 recite all the limitations of the independent claims, and thus, are allowable in view of the remarks set forth regarding independent claims 29 and 39. However, as discussed above, Sony CyberFrame, the product description of Outpost.com and Sony Hong Kong Press Release, the Announcement entitled "Sony to Sell Liquid Crystal TV with Memory Stick" by Nikkei Industrial Daily, and Piety are considered to teach claims 29 and 39, and consequently, claims 30-38, 40, 42, and 43 are rejected.

Conclusion

13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to <u>ALVIN H. TAN</u> whose telephone number is <u>(571)272-8595</u>. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 10:00-6:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Hong can be reached on 571-272-4124. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Assistant Examiner
Art Unit 2173

AHT

/Tadesse Hailu/ Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2173